

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the application:

1- 54. (Cancelled)

55. (Currently amended) A system for controlling access to digital information, comprising:

a first information processing device adapted to process digital information for access only at a specific geographic location, the first information processing device including a processor having suitable memory adapted to store software instructions operable to cause said processor to perform the functions of:

retrieving a location value that identifies a specific geographic location at which access to digital information is authorized;

generating an area parameter defining a shape of the specific geographic location without identifying the specific geographic location;

combining the location value and the area parameter to provide a first location identity key;

encrypting the digital information using the first location identity key;

sending the area parameter and the encrypted digital information; and

a second information processing device adapted to access the encrypted digital information, the second information processing device including a processor having suitable memory adapted to store software instructions operable to cause said processor to perform the functions of:

receiving the area parameter and the encrypted digital information;

determining a current location of the second information processing device;

combining the current location and the area parameter to generate a second location identity key; and

decrypting the digital information using the second location identity key.

56. (Previously presented) The system of Claim 55, wherein the retrieving function performed by the first information processing device further comprises retrieving a proximity value defining a zone that encompasses the specific geographic location.

57. (Previously presented) The system of Claim 56, wherein the zone comprises at least one of a rectangular region, a polygonal region, a circular region, and an elliptical region.

58. (Previously presented) The system of Claim 56, wherein the zone comprises at least one of a postal zip code, a state, a city, a county, a telephone area code, and a country.

59. (Previously presented) The system of Claim 55, wherein the retrieving function performed by the first information processing device further comprises retrieving a temporal value.

60. (Previously presented) The system of Claim 55, wherein the location value further defines latitude and longitude measurements for the specific geographic location.

61. (Previously presented) The system of Claim 55, wherein the location value further defines an altitude measurement for the specific geographic location.

62. (Previously presented) The system of Claim 55, wherein the location determining function performed by the second information processing device further comprises resolving the location from a street address for the second information processing device.

63. (Previously presented) The system of Claim 55, wherein the location determining function performed by the second information processing device further comprises retrieving the location from a file stored within the memory of the second information processing device.

64. (Previously presented) The system of Claim 55, wherein the second information processing device further comprises a GPS receiver, and wherein the location determining function performed by the second information processing device further comprises recovering the location from the GPS receiver.

65. (Previously presented) The system of Claim 55, wherein the location determining function performed by the second information processing device further comprises recovering the location by triangulating RF signals received by the second information processing device.

66. (Previously presented) The system of Claim 55, wherein the second information processing device further performs the function of allowing access to the digital information by a software application only at the specific geographic location.

67. (Previously presented) The system of Claim 55, wherein the second information processing device further performs the function of allowing retrieval of the digital information from the memory only at the specific geographic location.

68. (Previously presented) The system of Claim 55, wherein the second information processing device further performs the function of allowing visual display of the digital information only at the specific geographic location.

69. (Previously presented) The system of Claim 55, wherein the first information processing device further performs the function of appending the area parameter to the encrypted digital information.

70. (Previously presented) The system of Claim 69, wherein the receiving function performed by the second information processing device further comprises recovering the appended area parameter.

71. (Previously presented) The system of Claim 55, wherein the receiving function performed by the second information processing device further comprises receiving the area parameter and encrypted digital information from the first information processing device.

72. (Previously presented) The system of Claim 55, wherein the first information processing device further performs the function of communicating the area parameter and the encrypted digital information to the second information processing device.

73. (Currently amended) An information processing device, comprising:
a processor having suitable memory adapted to store software instructions operable to cause the processor to perform the functions of:

retrieving a location value that identifies a specific geographic location at which access to digital information is authorized;

generating an area parameter defining a shape of the specific geographic location without identifying the specific geographic location;

combining the location value and the area parameter to provide a first location identity key; and

encrypting the digital information using the first location identity key; and

sending the area parameter and the encrypted digital information to a recipient device, wherein the encrypted digital information can only be decrypted by a the recipient device located at the specific geographic location and having access to the area parameter.

74. (Previously presented) The information processing device of Claim 73, wherein the retrieving function further comprises retrieving a proximity value defining a zone that encompasses the specific geographic location.

75. (Previously presented) The information processing device of Claim 74, wherein the zone comprises at least one of a rectangular region, a polygonal region, a circular region, and an elliptical region.

76. (Previously presented) The information processing device of Claim 74, wherein the zone comprises at least one of a postal zip code, a state, a city, a county, a telephone area code, and a country.

77. (Previously presented) The information processing device of Claim 73, wherein the retrieving function further comprises retrieving a temporal value.

78. (Previously presented) The information processing device of Claim 73, wherein the location value further defines latitude and longitude measurements for the specific geographic location.

79. (Previously presented) The information processing device of Claim 73, wherein the processor further performs the function of communicating the encrypted digital information to a recipient device.

80. (Previously presented) The information processing device of Claim 79, wherein the processor further performs the function of appending the area parameter to the encrypted digital information prior to performing the communicating function.

81. (Previously presented) The information processing device of Claim 73, wherein the processor further performs the function of storing the encrypted digital information on a suitable storage medium.

82. (Previously presented) An information processing device, comprising:
a processor having suitable memory adapted to store software instructions operable to cause the processor to perform the functions of:

- receiving digital information that has been encrypted using a location identity key comprising a location value defining a specific geographic location combined with an area parameter defining a shape of the specific geographic location without identifying the specific geographic location;

- receiving the area parameter;

- determining a current location of the information processing device;

- combining the current location and the area parameter to generate a second location identity key; and

- decrypting the digital information using the second location identity key, wherein the digital information can only be decrypted if the information processing device is located at the specific geographic location.

83. (Previously presented) The information processing device of Claim 82, wherein the location value further defines latitude and longitude measurements for the specific geographic location.

84. (Previously presented) The information processing device of Claim 82, wherein the location value further defines an altitude measurement for the specific geographic location.

85. (Previously presented) The information processing device of Claim 82, wherein the location determining function further comprises resolving the location from a street address for the information processing device.

86. (Previously presented) The information processing device of Claim 82, wherein the location determining function further comprises retrieving the location from a file stored within the memory of the information processing device.

87. (Previously presented) The information processing device of Claim 82, further comprising a GPS receiver, and wherein the location determining function further comprises recovering the location from the GPS receiver.

88. (Previously presented) The information processing device of Claim 82, wherein the location determining function further comprises recovering the location by triangulating RF signals received by the information processing device.

89. (Previously presented) The information processing device of Claim 82, wherein the processor further performs the function of allowing access to the digital information by a software application executed by the processor only at the specific geographic location.

90. (Previously presented) The information processing device of Claim 82, wherein the processor further performs the function of allowing retrieval of the digital information from the memory only at the specific geographic location.

91. (Previously presented) The information processing device of Claim 82, further comprising a visual display monitor operatively coupled to the processor, and wherein the processor further performs the function of allowing visual display of the digital information on the visual display monitor only at the specific geographic location.